

Saunders et al.

S/N: 10/604,634

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hansen (USP 3,407,300). The Examiner next rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Glenn et al. (USP 6,672,773). Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gates et al. (US Pub. 2002/0144613). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sanghera et al. (USP 5,953,478). Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Singh et al. (USP 6,620,300). Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawai et al. (JP 61-37367). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Glenn et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ishiharada et al. (USP 5,692,088). Claims 16, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen in view of York et al. (USP 3,997,794).

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 5, 12-15, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended paragraph [0040] to correct the typographical error referenced by the Examiner.

Applicant has also amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Claims 9 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 21-25 are newly presented herein and include the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10, respectively. The subject matter originally presented in claim 5 and indicated as allowable by the Examiner is now being presented in claim 21. As such, claim 21 as well as claims 22-25 depending therefore are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 16 is also believed to be allowable as it has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of originally presented claim 20.

As referenced above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Glenn et al. According to the Examiner, "Glenn et al. discloses a method comprising forming a core of base material (fig. 3, #50) and applying a tapered layer of attenuating material (fig. 3, defined by #48) to the core (fig. 3, #50), and further discloses wherein the core includes a cylindrical rod (col. 3, lines 22-23)." OFFICE ACTION, August 9, 2005, p. 3. The reference, however, makes no such teaching.

Glenn et al. discloses an "a method and apparatus for connecting optical fibers to waveguides and other optical elements". GLENN ET AL., Abstract. In this regard, the

Saunders et al.

S/N: 10/604,634

references teaches that "an exemplary glass optical fiber 40 includes a cylindrical central core 42 surrounded by a cylindrical cladding 44." GLENN ET AL., col. 3, ll. 21-23. As the Examiner cited the above excerpt, it would appear that the Examiner has concluded that the "cladding" constitutes the claimed "attenuating material". Accordingly, Applicant has also amended claim 1 to clarify that the attenuating material is an x-ray attenuating material.

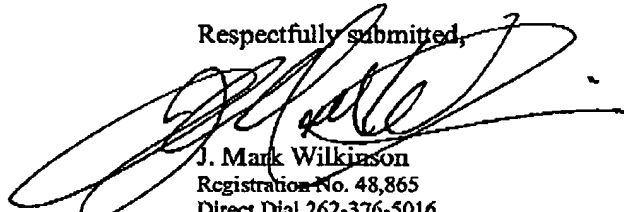
"Cladding", in the context of waveguides, is generally recognized as a covering for an optical fiber that reflects light back to the core. Glenn et al.'s teaching is consistent with this general understanding of the term. That is, the reference teaches that "light travels in core 42" that is surrounded by cladding. GLENN ET AL., col. 3, l. 24. Thus, it is clear that the reference teaches a light reflective layer that is secured to an optical fiber designed to transmit light. In this regard, the reference fails to teach or suggest that the cladding attenuates x-rays, as called for in claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 calls for subject matter neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-8, 10-19, and 21-25.

Applicant hereby authorizes charging of deposit account no. 07-0845 for any additional fees associated with entering the aforementioned claims.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Mark Wilkinson
Registration No. 48,865
Direct Dial 262-376-5016
jmw@zpspatents.com

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P.O. ADDRESS:
Ziolkowski Patent Solutions Group, SC
14135 North Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53097-1416
262-376-5170